

IRS Checking Don Nixon's Returns

By Drew Pearson
and Jack Anderson

The Internal Revenue Service now has the delicate duty of "auditing" the income tax returns of the President's younger brother, Don Nixon.

Actually a tax investigation of Don was initiated by Internal Revenue in the last Administration, but Don asked that it be postponed. The Johnson Administration agreed, so now Internal Revenue is in the position of scrutinizing the tax returns of the President's brother at a time when the President controls it.

Meanwhile evidence accrues that Don Nixon has been trying to capitalize once again on his brother's fame. This is not exactly new for Don. While Mr. Nixon was Vice President, Don tried to establish a chain of drive-in restaurants that featured a triple-decker sandwich called the "Nixonburger." To finance the venture and pay bad debts he borrowed \$205,000 from the Hughes Tool Company.

The Nixonburger never became a threat to the hamburger or cheeseburger, however, and the drive-in idea flopped. The \$205,000 loan, secured by a mortgage on Lot 10 on Whittier Boulevard in Whittier, Calif. — a piece of real estate that no bank would have accepted as security for a loan of that size — was never repaid. The Nixon family lot is now registered in the name of the Hughes Tool Company.

Don also incorporated him-

self and began selling shares to eager Republicans who might want to curry favor with the Vice President. This idea backfired when an embarrassed Richard Nixon found out about it and quietly put the kibosh on Donald Nixon, Inc.

Unabashed, Don continued to wheel and deal, once had to be bailed out by his famous brother for several thousand dollars. Not long after Richard was elected, Don began boasting to friends that he expected to make a million dollars during the next four years. As the first step, he negotiated a substantial raise in his own salary from Ogden Foods, a vending machine company he represents in California.

Eye Out for Clients

He also made contact with John Hill, president of Educational Play, a Boston company that manufactures playground equipment. Hill has made a pitch for some of the "new money" that President Nixon has authorized for cleaning up riot areas.

Hill insisted to this column that Don Nixon didn't offer to help wangle playground grants from the Nixon Administration, but that he was interested merely in representing the company on the West Coast. In any case, Don wrote Hill an abrupt letter, withdrawing from the deal, after he learned we were investigating.

Don also showed up at the White House the other morn-

ing with Elmer Stone, assistant general counsel for Ryan Aeronautical Company, in tow. Stone has largely taken over the duties of B. K. Goodman, the general counsel, who has been in poor health.

Ryan Aeronautical is reported to be in need of government contracts to improve its financial situation. To get favored treatment from the Nixon Administration, Stone apparently sought to take advantage of his friendship with Don Nixon.

A company spokesman, when queried by this column, claimed that Stone has been Don's legal adviser. He alibied that the two traveled all the way to Washington merely to notify the White House that the relationship had been severed.

It is, of course, highly unusual for a corporate counsel, without an independent practice of his own, to serve as an outsider's personal attorney. Nevertheless the company spokesman insisted that Stone wanted to tell the White House in person — because Ryan is a defense contractor — that he is no longer Don Nixon's attorney.

Whatever the motive, it is a fact that Nixon and Stone together called upon White House aide John Ehrlichman. What they said and did is one of those secrets that do not come under the new Nixon communications complex. Ehrlichman refused to talk about the visit.

It would seem, however,

that, in view of Don's past wheeling-dealing, the public should be entitled to know the details of what the President's brother was doing in the White House with a defense contractor.

Without any fanfare, President Nixon has been bringing student radicals to the White House for private talks. They've been organized by Bud Wilkinson, the University of Oklahoma coach, now on the White House staff, but Henry Kissinger and other top advisers have also participated.

Meanwhile, the Students for a Democratic Society and the Black Panthers have joined forces in some cities. They have also increased in number.

A year ago, there were only 70 Black Panthers in the United States — all located in the San Francisco area. Now there are over 1600 Black Panthers in 45 cities. They are dedicated to guerrilla warfare and have already started assassinating policemen. They also have direct ties to their leader, Eldridge Cleaver, who is hiding out in Cuba.

By joining forces with the SDS, the Black Panthers hope to convert the SDS from mere campus disorder to outright guerrilla warfare in the big cities. They are also attempting to infiltrate the labor unions and stir up trouble there.